



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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STEVE COOLEY • District Attorney

CURT LIVESAY • Chief Deputy District Attorney

October 26, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

## **PROPOSITION B**

Dear Supervisors:

We have conducted an independent review of Proposition B in order to evaluate the efficacy of enforcement of its provisions. In addition, we have reviewed matters submitted to this office for investigation of allegations of Proposition B violations. Considering the lack of communicated direction to candidates and those involved in the campaign process, the level of compliance with Proposition B over nearly a decade of its existence is truly remarkable. Though well-intentioned, the provisions of Proposition B contain fundamental flaws that render appropriate sanctions nearly impossible to pursue. In addition, we believe that candidates and officeholders are not provided with sufficient information regarding the identities of registered lobbyists or restrictions upon campaign contributions. Consequently, we submit the following suggestions that we believe will promote the integrity of the County election process and strengthen our ability to effectively enforce this ordinance.

1. Require as a condition of candidacy for county office that candidates agree to make available their campaign finance records, including bank records, for audit and review upon request of the Registrar-Recorder. Failure to make full disclosure of such records within ten days of the request would constitute a misdemeanor.

Currently, there are few investigative tools by which to review campaign finance violations under Proposition B. Mandating disclosure of campaign finance records will allow access to records necessary to establish whether violations occurred. This properly places the responsibility upon the candidate to ensure that campaign contributions are legally obtained and that the records of such contributions are

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timely and appropriately maintained. Access to candidate financial records will ensure that allegations of improper campaign contributions can be readily evaluated and, where necessary, timely action can be taken to protect the integrity of the election process.

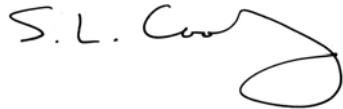
2. Encourage candidates, officeholders and their respective finance workers to include Proposition B disclosure language on remittance envelopes and solicitation materials – i.e., \$1,000 contribution limit, restrictions on lobbyists, etc.
3. Mandated notification of all candidates, campaign treasurers, officeholders, and those in control of officeholder accounts of the names of and pertinent information regarding all registered county lobbyists at regular intervals.
4. Provide each candidate with a current list of all registered lobbyists at the time a candidate files to run for office.
5. Post a current list of registered county lobbyists on the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder website so that information is readily accessible.
6. Routinely notify all registered county lobbyists of restrictions on contributing to county candidates and officeholders.
7. Provide voluntary training on the requirements and restrictions of Proposition B and other campaign contribution provisions, similar to the training provided by the Fair Political Practices Committee (FPPC) on state election laws.

The Auxiliary Services Division of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors currently maintains Lobbyist Reports and could easily make the required notifications at regular intervals.

Our proposals would serve to inform potential candidates, officeholders, and the public of the legal requirements of these ordinances, identify the currently registered lobbyists, and increase the transparency of campaign funding by mandating access to campaign fund records upon request of the Registrar-Recorder. In addition, the proposed audit requirement permits full and fair evaluation of allegations of campaign finance violations and will facilitate our ability to seek appropriate sanctions against those who fail to comply with or otherwise violate the provisions of Proposition B.

We remain steadfastly committed to encouraging compliance with the election laws at the state and local level and will continue to actively pursue appropriate remedies in order to protect the integrity of the County's election process. We believe our proposals warrant serious consideration so that the intended purpose of Proposition B can be fully achieved.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Cooley", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

STEVE COOLEY  
District Attorney

cmh

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel